

**Suggested Talking Points**  
**USAID Mission Director Gloria Steele**  
**Signing of the MOU on NRW Management Twinning**  
**Partnerships with Water Districts and MIYA/Maynilad**  
**November 9, 2010, 4:00 PM**  
**Meraclo Office, Meralco Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City**

Mr. Manny Pangilinan, Chairman of the Board, Maynilad Water Services,

Mr. Roland Liemberger, Asia Regional Director, MIYA Manila Water Projects, Inc;

Mr. Victorico Vargas, President, Maynilad Water Services;

Mr. Nestor Villasin, President, Philippine Association of Water Districts;

Ms. Juliana Carbon, General Manager Bacolod Water District;

Mr. Guillermo Pili, General Manager San Pedro Water District and Board Members of the Water District

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Good afternoon to everyone – most especially our partners from Leyte Metro, Bacolod and San Pedro Water Districts, MIYA, Maynilad and the Philippine Association of Water Districts (PAWD). And thank you to Mr. Pangilinan for hosting this important event.
- I am very pleased to join you in today's event that promotes an innovative approach to building expertise in non-revenue water management and at the same time highlights the importance of public-private partnerships in pursuing development goals.
- USAID supports the Water Operators' Partnership (WOP) Program in the Asia region as well as in the Philippines as an

effective way of sharing knowledge and best practices among water utilities to ultimately bring clean water to more people.

- I understand that among water districts, the average percentage of treated water that is lost in the system is conservatively estimated at 25-35% while the franchises only serve 50-60% of the population. I cannot underscore enough the need to address these concerns given the obvious waste of a very valuable resource and more importantly, the tremendous health and economic cost of lack of access to clean water.
- Worldwide statistics show that the second killer of children under the age of 5 is diarrhea, which could significantly be prevented by having access to clean water. Worldwide statistics also show that in developing countries, 45 million cubic meters of water a day is lost through leakages in the distribution system. This loss is enough to serve 200 million people. Even if these losses were only reduced by half, an estimated 90 million people could be provided with water without additional investments in new production facilities.
- So, we are very pleased to be part of a partnership that will reduce non-revenue water; and improve the capacity of water districts to increase the amount of water supplied to existing customers, and to expand to new customers—ultimately improving thru health and economic conditions of these beneficiaries.
- We thank MIYA and Maynilad for offering to be mentors on the twinning partnership on non-revenue water management. We laud your willingness to share your valuable time and expertise with Leyte Metro, Bacolod and San Pedro Water

Districts. We also thank the Water Districts for your commitment to this undertaking.

- I would also like to congratulate the Philippine Association of Water Districts for adopting the Water Operators Partnership Program. We hope through the Philippine Association of Water District's facilitation more twinning partnerships will be forged. We particularly look forward to the recipient twins paying forward by becoming mentors to other water districts.
- On behalf of USAID and the U.S. Government thank you for your support to this undertaking. *Maralinga Salam at!*